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CIA goes after anti-U.S. agent magazine

By Isaiah J. Poole SPECIAL TO THE NEWS WOALD

WASHINGTON-The Covert Action Information Bulletin is apparently more than a thorn in the side of the CIA. It is a knife.

The publication, which is dedicated to exposing the names of CIA undercover operatives around the world and the agency's covert activities, has become enough of a threat that the agency has begun an effort to legally stop them-and risk a First Amendment showdown.

According to CIA Director Stansfield Turner, as a result of the bimonthly magazine's exposes "the CIA's relations with foreign sources have been impaired ... Nearly all major foreign intelligence services with which we have liaison relationships have undertaken review of their relations with the Agency.'

Covert Action Information Bulletin (CAIB) is a direct offshoot of the work of former CIA agent Philip Agee, who turned against the agency in the late 1960's to become a fervent advocate of "revolutionary socialism." With the intent of ultimately destroying the CIA, and with the help of the Cuban Communist Party and a worldwide network of leftist and communist organizations. Agee wrote two books attacking the agency and exposing the names of hundreds of CIA agents. One of Agee's books, "Dirty Work: The CIA in Western Europe," is said to have led to the assassination of Richard Welch, a CIA station chief in Athens, Greece.

The Association of Foreign Intelligence Officers declared once that Agee "is known to have enlisted in the cause of international communism. He is thus a traitor.

It was Agee who inspired CAIB and its short-lived predecessor, CounterSpy. While Agee himself now resides in Hamburg, West Germany, where he occasionally lectures but mainly writes and does research for future CIA exposes, a staff of six people produce the magazine in an office a short drive from the CIA's suburban Virginia headquarters.

Destroy the agency

Turner and other opponents charge that CAIB's purpose is to flat: out destroy the agency but the CAIB staff denies this.

"We are not out, per se, to destroy the CIA," counters Louis Wolf, one of the magazine's writers, to that argument. He said that he would have no quarrel with the agency "if the CIA was doing what it alleges it is doing, which is collecting intelligence."

"Our argument is with the fact: that the CIA is used (for) covert actions and covert operations . . . the CIA continues to intervene actively in other countries' affairs," Wolf

said. The latest issue of CAIB, for example, contains stories about alleged U.S. intelligence activities in Southeast Asia since the end of the Vietnam War, U.S. spy work in Sweden and Denmark, and alleged U.S. attempts to "destablize" the Carribean island nation of Grenada. It also lists the names and backgrounds of 20 alleged CIA agents.

Wolf calls the production of the magazine a "hand to mouth" opera-

tion, relying almost totally on money gathered through sales of the magazine and the personal savings of the staffers, who, work as a collec-

A key figures in the operation of CAIB is William Schaap, a member of the left-wing National Lawyers Guild and a law partner with two Communist Party U.S.A. activists, Jonathan and David Lubell. Another, Ellen Ray, was an anti-war activist and a writer for the underground Washington newspaper Quicksilver Times. Three others had worked for the CIA but had become disillusioned with the agency's activities.

The CIA has a policy of not confirming or denying the accuracy of anything published in CAIB. But the CAIB staff takes the CIA's attempts to make their work illegal as a sign

that they are effective.

The difficulty that the CIA and the Justice Department has in drafting legislation that would put CAIB and similar efforts out of business is the fact that much of the information the magazine has is gleaned from public sources, such as the National Archives and the Library of Congress, and the rest is gathered through typical investigative techni-

Magazine staffers, for example, pore over lists of State Department foreign service assignments and the biographies of the persons taking those assignments. Discrepancies between a person's assignment (in a foreign embassy, for example) and that person's background may point to an agent using the position as a CIA cover.

CIA Deputy Director Frank Car- STAT

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